IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 9-12 and ADD claims 14 and 15 in accordance with the following:

1.   (original) A system for processing special characters used in a dynamic document intended for exchange over a network, comprising:

(a) special character image management unit comprising:

special character definition means for creating a special character database file that defines which characters to convert into graphic images,

special character image generation means for producing graphical images of the special characters that said definition means has determined as being relevant to the conversion, with reference to a given character pattern dictionary containing character pattern data,

first image data storage means for storing the special character database file produced by said special character definition means and the special character images produced by said special character image generating means, and

uploading means for transmitting the special character database file and the special character image files; and

(b)   a document conversion unit comprising:

second image data storage means for storing the special character database file and special character images received from said uploading means,

special character identification means for identifying a special character used in a given source document by consulting the special character database file stored in said second image data storage means,

link generation means for producing a link to one of the special character image files that is relevant to the identified special character, and

compilation means for compiling an output document by replacing the special character identified in the source document with the link to the corresponding special character image file.

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2.   (original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said special character definition means defines character codes and character sizes of the special characters to be converted.

3.   (original) The system according to claim 2, wherein said special character image generation means produces one special character image file for each identified special character, based on the character pattern data read out of the given character pattern dictionary.

4.   (original) The system according to claim 2, wherein said special character image generation means produces as many special character image files as the number of different character sizes for each identified special character, based on the character pattern data read out of the given character pattern dictionary.

5.   (original) The system according to claim 4, wherein said special character image generation means assigns a file name to each produced special character image file, the file name comprising text fields that indicate the character code and the character size, whereby an appropriate special character image file can be uniquely and immediately identified by a given character code and character size.

6.   (original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said document conversion unit further comprises font size tracking means for finding character size attribute information in the given source document and maintains the extracted information locally.

7.   (original) The system according to claim 6, wherein said link generation means produces a link to one of the special character image files that meets the special character code identified by said special character identification means and the character size attribute information maintained in said font size tracking means.

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8.   (original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said document conversion unit further comprises code conversion means for converting a character code used in the given source document into another character code belonging to a required coding system, when the character code is identified as a non-special character by said special character identification means.

9.   (currently amended) A ~~document conversion unit~~computer system which dynamically creates a document from data retrieved from a processing system that uses special characters and reforms the created document for exchange over a network, comprising:

a special character image dictionary which is a collection of special character image files each containing a graphic image of a special character;

a special character database file which contains data to manage the special character image files in said special character image dictionary;

special character identification means for identifying a special character used in the created document, by consulting the special character database file;

link generation means for producing a link to one of the special character image files that is relevant to the identified special character; and

compilation means for compiling an output document by replacing the special characters identified in the source document with the links to the relevant special character images file.

10.   (currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~computer system according to claim 9, further comprising font size tracking means for extracting character size attribute information from the created document and keeps the extracted information locally.

11.   (currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~computer system according to claim 10, wherein said link generation means produces a link to one of the special character image files that meets the special character code identified by said special character identification means and the character size attribute information maintained in said font size tracking means.

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12.   (currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ computer system according to claim 9, further comprising code conversion means for converting a character code used in the created document into another character code belonging to a required coding system, when the character code is identified as a non-special character by said special character identification means.

13.   (original) A computer-readable medium storing a program which processes special characters contained in a dynamic document created for exchange over a network, the program causing a computer system to function as:

special character definition means for determining which characters to convert into graphic images, thereby producing a special character database file;

special character image generation means for producing graphical images of the special characters that said definition means has determined as being relevant to the conversion, with reference to a given character pattern dictionary containing character pattern data;

uploading means for transmitting special character database file and the special character image files;

font size tracking means for extracting character size attribute information from a given source document and keeps the extracted information locally;

special character identification means for identifying a special character used in the given source document by consulting the special character database file stored in said second image data storage means;

link generation means for producing a link to one of the special character image files that is relevant to the identified special character;

code conversion means for converting a character code used in the created document into another character code belonging to a required coding system, when the character code is identified as a non-special character by
said special character identification means; and

compilation means for compiling an output document by replacing the special character identified in the source document with the link to the corresponding special character image file.

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14.   (new) A computer-readable medium storing a program which dynamically creates a document from data retrieved from a processing system that uses special characters and reforms the created document for exchange over a network, the program causing a computer system to function as:

a special character image dictionary which is a collection of special character image files each containing a graphic image of a special character;

a special character database file which contains data to manage the special character image files in said special character image dictionary;

special character identification means for identifying a special character used in the created document, by consulting the special character database file;

link generation means for producing a link to one of the special character image files that is relevant to the identified special character, the link including a file name of said one of the special character image files and a directory path indicating where the special character image files are stored; and

compilation means for compiling an output document by replacing the special character identified in the source document with the link to the relevant special character image file.

15.   (new) A method for processing special characters used in dynamic documents, comprising:

determining the special characters to be converted into graphic images in a dynamic document;

producing graphic images corresponding to the determined special characters;

storing the special characters to be converted into graphic images in a database;

identifying a special character used in a source document corresponding to a file stored in the database;

producing a link to the file corresponding to the identified special character; and

compiling an output document by replacing the identified special character in the source document with the link corresponding to the file.